(iii) *State Level Functions:—*

Health Check-up Camps, Blood Donation Camps, Maternal & Child Health, Health March, Employers/Employees Seminars, clearance of pending medical reimbusement bills has been planned.

(iv) Other activities relate to release of Postal Stamp and release of Souvenir on 24.2.2002, preparation of documentary film on ESI Scheme, publication of employers/employees guide, distribution of awards for best run hospitals and Dispensary at Zonal level on 24.2.2002.

(v) The documentary film and the employers/employees guide have already been released.

(b) All efforts are being made by ESI Corporation to improve the service dilivery system to enhance patient satisfaction.

(c) It has been decided that all pending bills regarding reimbursement of medical expenditure upto 31st March, 2001 may be cleared. Accordingly, the information regarding pending bills has been called for from the State Govts.

(d) The ESI Corporation has decided to set up one Model Hospital in each State, with the consent of the State Govt.

Sanction of Telephone Towers

*245. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that towers for giving telephone connectivity and television facility particularly to Parvati Valley and other connected areas in Kullu District, Ashapuri Valley and other connected areas in Kangra District in Himachal Pradesh were sanctioned during 1994 to 19% by the Department of Telecommunications;

(b) whether foundation was also completed during the period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken or proposed to be taken to complete the projects and if no action has been taken so far, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) A tower was sanctioned at Bijli Mahadev in Parvati Valley in Kullu district for extending telephone junction connectivity to Manikaran Telephone Exchange from Kullu on digital Microwave system. A tower at Ashapuri was also sanctioned for 7GHz Digital Microwave link from Palampur to Ashapuri. These

towers were also to be used for television broadcasting services by the Doordarshan on co-location basis.

The foundation work was completed at Bijli Mahadev in Parvati Valley in May, 1997 whereas at Ahapuri the tower work was completed in August, 95 and the tower is being utilized by BSNL and Doordarshan.

The tower erection work at Bijli Mahadev was postponed due to change in plan for connecting Manikaran Telephone Exchange on Aerial Optical Fibre cable instead of Digital Microwave. The tower erection shall now be carried out during 2002-03 for operation of Wireless in Local Loop and Cellular Mobile Services planned by BSNL in that area.

Underworld Dons

*246. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UAE Government is not co-operating in dealing with the Indian underworld dons who have made Dubai their base for so many years;

(b) if so, Government's views and reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) An Extradition Treaty as well as a Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement for Cooperation in Criminal Matters were earlier signed and finally ratified by both countries on May 29, 2000. These two agreements provide a basic framework for dealing with trans-national crime and criminals. Both countries are committed to abiding by these agreements.

Indo-Russian Joint Venture

*247. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a).whether India and Russia are launching a number of joint ventures for manufacturing telecom equipments and optic fibres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the work on the projects is likely to commence?